

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218581  
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

YYPQQ

DRAFTED BY: AF/W: BSKIRKPATRICK: IW

APPROVED BY: AF/W: RGHOUDEK

-----071181 131101Z /14

R 130540Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN 8641

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218581

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 6748 ACTION SECSTAT INFO LONDON PRETORIA US  
UN  
SEP 9.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FOELOF BOTHA PAID AN UNEXPECTED AND UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 2 AND 3. IN MEETINGS WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN, HE EXPLAINED SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION AND DISCUSSED RHODESIA AND HEARD BEGIN EXPLAIN ISRAEL'S POLICY REGARDING LEBANON, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF OTHER MIDDLE EAST MATTERS, OR OF BILATERAL ISSUES. THE VISIT RECONFIRMS ISRAEL'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE THIRD WORLD. END SUMMARY

2. BOTHA'S VISIT WAS NOT ANNOUNCED BEFOREHEA D AND BECAME PUBLICLY KNOWN ONLY AFTER HE HAD DEPARTED FROM ISRAEL  
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FOR GENEVA, WHERE HE WAS TO MEET WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE VISIT WITH FMA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ANUG AND SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY DCM VAN ZYL BUT HAVE FOUND THEM LESS THAN FORTHCOMING ON DETAILS OF THE VISIT.

3. ANUG, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS WITH BEGIN

AND DAYAN, TOLD US THAT THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO BOTHA'S EXPLAINING SOUTH AFRICA'S CURRENT POLICIES AND POSITIONS AND HIS VIEWS ON RHODESIA. ON THE LATTER SUBJECT, ANUG SAID THAT BOTHA HAD EXPRESSED TO THE ISRAELIS HIS SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT WHAT HE TERMED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REVERSAL OF THE AMERICAN POSITION REGARDING THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF RHODESIAN MILITARY FORCES. THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TAKEN UP BY BEGIN'S EXPLANATION OF ISRAELI POLICY REGARDING LEBANON; BEGIN REPEATED HIS INTENTION NOT TO ABANDON THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS IN SOUTH LEBANON. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF OTHER MIDDLE EAST ISSUES OF BILATERAL SUBJECTS AT THESE MEETINGS ACCORDING TO ANUG.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN DCM WAS TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT VISIT. HE ARRIVED ON POST IN MIDST OF BOTHA VISIT AND CLAIMED NEITHER TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED NOR TO HAVE HAD A BRIEFING FROM HIS AMBASSADOR. TO EXTENT HE WOULD SAY ANYTHING ABOUT VISIT HE PUT STRESS ON PROTOCOL NATURE OF BOTHA'S ACTIVITIES. SAID THAT BOTHA KNEW NO ONE IN NEW BEGIN GOVERNMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF DAYAN, WHOM HE HAD ONCE MET IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND FELT THE NEED TO EXPAND HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH ISRAELI LEADERSHIP.

5. WE WILL KEEP DIGGING BUT WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSI-  
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BILITY THERE IS LESS TO VISIT THAN MEETS THE EYE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, PDEV, IS, SF, (BOTH, FOELOF)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009